

WATER USE IN INDIANA, GRAPHS BY COUNTY AND WATER MANAGEMENT BASIN

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WATER

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INTRODUCTION

The Water Resource Management Act (Indiana Code 14-25-7, previously 13-2-6.1), passed by the State Legislature in 1983, mandates that owners of all wells and surface water intakes register with the Division of Water if their pumping facilities have the capability of withdrawing 100,000 gallons or more of water per day (equivalent to about 70 gallons or more per minute). The law pertains to both stationary and portable pumps. Registration requirements are based on pump capacity, not actual water withdrawals. Beginning in 1996, by act of the legislature, landfill facilities were exempted from the requirement to register and report their withdrawals.

In accordance with the Water Resource Management Act, the Division of Water, since 1985, has been conducting an inventory of the state's significant water withdrawal facilities. This inventory includes information on the numbers of significant water withdrawal facilities throughout the state, along with the numbers of registered ground water wells and surface water intakes, the amounts of water withdrawn, and the pump withdrawal capacities. Withdrawal capacity is the amount of water a pump is capable of pumping, whereas a withdrawal is the amount of water a pump actually withdrew from a surface or ground water source. Data in this water use inventory can be aggregated by category of use and also by county and by Water Management Basin.

Every year, the Division of Water mails a reporting form to each registered facility. The facility owners ensure that the forms are completed and returned to the agency. The facility owner's best estimates of total monthly withdrawals for each pump are listed on the form. Reported withdrawals at some sites are based on flowmeter readings, although metering is not uniformly mandated for all facilities. Reported withdrawals at other sites are based on the pump capacity multiplied by the hours of pump operation. At other sites, alternative techniques are used to produce estimates of withdrawals. In 1996, there were withdrawal data for 3,536 active registered facilities.

This report presents a summary in graphical form of annual water withdrawals for each of the 92 counties and 12 Water Management Basins in the state for the period of available data. Withdrawals for each county and basin are aggregated by source (ground water or surface water) and by water use category.

Registered significant water withdrawal facilities have been divided into six general water use categories. The categories are described as follows:

Energy Production facilities include those that withdraw water for the primary purpose of power generation, including coal mining operations. A major component in this category is water used for the cooling of condensers at fossil fuel power plants.

Industrial facilities include those that withdraw water primarily for use in the manufacturing process, including sand and gravel operations.

Public Supply facilities include those that withdraw water for the primary purpose of distributing water for use by others and for use in public establishments. These facilities include water supply utilities and self-supplied mobile home parks and apartment complexes. These facilities also include self-supplied schools and other institutions that provide water for use by the general public.

Agricultural facilities include those that withdraw water for the primary purpose of irrigating crops or golf courses, dewatering farm sites and fields, and other similar agricultural practices.

Rural Use facilities include those that withdraw water for the primary purpose of watering livestock and operating fish hatcheries.

Miscellaneous facilities include those that withdraw water for a variety of other uses, including snow-making, operating fish and wildlife areas, lake-level maintenance, and construction dewatering. Landfills were included in this category through 1995, then were exempted from the registration and reporting requirement beginning in 1996.